

SYSTEM OF ELECTRONIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AND
MOBILE WIRELESS TERMINAL SET

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to an electronic musical instrument connected to a public communications network, a mobile wireless terminal set having an electronic musical instrument capability, and a mobile wireless terminal set having an electronic musical instrument remote control capability.

2. Description of Related Art

Some electronic musical instruments have a communications interface such as MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), RS232C, RS422, 10/100 BASE-T, USB (Universal Serial Bus), and IEEE 1394. These interfaces allow two or more electronic musical instruments to constitute a LAN (Local Area Network). However, this LAN is nothing but a communications network dedicated to the interconnection among the electronic musical instruments compliant with a particular communications standard; namely, the LAN does not base on a universal communications standard. There has been no networking method that facilitates the interconnection of two or more electronic musical instruments.

Some electronic musical instruments are controlled remotely. For the remote control, these musical instruments require dedicated remote control devices. Each of these devices is of stand-alone type and therefore cannot control other electronic musical instruments.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an electronic musical instrument or a mobile wireless terminal set having an electronic musical instrument capability, that can be easily connected to a public communications network for effective use of music information stored in database servers.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a mobile wireless terminal set having a remote control capability that can remotely control electronic musical instruments connected to a public communications network, and that can download information necessary for the remote control.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a main block processes music information for generation of music

tones, the processed music information being transferable for effecting remote generation of the music tones. A memory block is controlled for memorizing music information. A control block controls the memory block to memorize the processed music information and to feed the memorized music information to the mobile wireless terminal set for transfer of the music information through the public communication network.

Preferably, the electronic musical instrument has a card slot provided for receiving therein a data communication card such that the mobile wireless terminal set is detachably coupled to the received data communication card by a connection cable. Otherwise, the electronic musical instrument has a card slot provided for receiving therein a card type of the mobile wireless terminal set such that the mobile wireless terminal set is detachably coupled to the card slot. Otherwise, the electronic musical instrument has a connector provided for engagement with another connector provided in the mobile wireless terminal set such that the mobile wireless terminal set is detachably coupled to the connector. Otherwise, the electronic musical instrument has a space portion provided for integrally accommodating therein the mobile wireless terminal set such that the mobile wireless terminal set is detachably coupled to the space portion. Specifically, the electronic musical

instrument treats music information containing at least one of music tone information that characterizes the music tones, music control information that controls the generation of the music tones and music performance information that specifies a performance by the music tones.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a memory block is controlled for memorizing music information. A control block feeds music information received by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network to the memory block, and controls the memory block to memorize therein the fed music information. A main block processes the memorized music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a main block processes music information for generation of music tones, the processed music information being transferable for effecting remote generation of the music tones. A

coupling block is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set. A control block controls the coupling block to feed the processed music information from the main block to the mobile wireless terminal set for transfer of the music information through the public communication network.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a coupling block is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which can receive music information through the public communication network. A memory block can receive and memorize the music information outputted from the coupling block. A main block can process the memorized music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set is connectable to an electronic musical instrument which treats music information associated to music tones. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a communication block can communicate with a public communication network by a wireless line to receive music information from the public communication network. A coupling block is coupled to the electronic musical instrument. A control block passes the music information received by the

communication block to the electronic musical instrument through the coupling block, whereby the electronic musical instrument can process the passed music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set is connectable to an electronic musical instrument which outputs music information usable for generation of music tones. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a coupling block is coupled to the electronic musical instrument. A memory block receives and memorizes the music information outputted by the electronic musical instrument through the coupling block. A communication block can communicate with a public communication network by a wireless line to transmit the memorized music information to the public communication network for remote generation of music tones according to the transmitted music information.

An inventive system comprises an electronic musical instrument which treats music information associated to music tones, and a mobile wireless terminal set which can transfer music information through a public communication network. The electronic musical instrument comprises a main block that processes music information for generation of music tones, the processed music information being transferable for effecting remote generation of the music tones, a coupling block that is

used for coupling with the mobile wireless terminal set, and a control block that controls the coupling block to feed the processed music information from the main block to the mobile wireless terminal set. The mobile wireless terminal set comprises a coupling block that is used for the coupling with the electronic musical instrument, a memory block that receives and memorizes the music information fed from the electronic musical instrument through the coupling block, and a communication block that can communicate with the public communication network by a wireless line to transmit the memorized music information to the public communication network for remote generation of music tones according to the transmitted music information.

An inventive system comprises a mobile wireless terminal set which can acquire music information from a public communication network, and an electronic musical instrument which can treat music information associated to music tones. The mobile wireless terminal set comprises a communication block that can communicate with the public communication network by a wireless line to acquire music information from the public communication network, a coupling block that is used for coupling to the electronic musical instrument, and a control block that passes the music information acquired by the communication block to the electronic musical instrument

through the coupling block. The electronic musical instrument comprises a coupling block that is used for coupling to the mobile wireless terminal, a memory block that can receive and memorize the passed music information through the coupling block, and a main block that can process the memorized music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set can communicate with a public communication network, and can treat music information associated to music tones. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a communication block can communicate with the public communication network by a wireless line. A musical instrument block processes music information to generate music tones. A control block controls the musical instrument block to pass the processed music information to the communication block, and controls the communication block to transmit the passed music information to the public communication network for remote generation of the music tones according to the transmitted music information.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set can communicate with a public communication network, and can treat music information associated to music tones. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a communication block can communicate with the public communication network by a wireless line to acquire music information from the

public communication network. A musical instrument block processes music information to generate the music tones. A control block controls the communication block to pass the acquired music information to the musical instrument block, and controls the musical instrument block to generate the music tones according to the passed music information.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set can execute a remote control over functions of an electronic musical instrument through a public communication network. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a communication block can connect with the public communication network by a wireless line to transmit information. A first control can be manipulated to generate first control information effective to control the communication block. A setting block allocates a function of the electronic musical instrument to the first control. A converting block converts the first control information generated by the manipulation of the first control into second control information, which is equivalent to control information generated by a second control equipped in the electronic musical instrument for controlling of the function of the electronic musical instrument. A control block controls the communication block to direct the second control information to the electronic musical instrument through the public

communication network, thereby executing the remote control of the function of the electronic musical instrument by means of the first control.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set can execute a remote control over functions of an electronic musical instrument through a public communication network. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a communication block can connect with the public communication network by a wireless line to receive and transmit information. A first control can be manipulated to generate first control information effective to control the communication block. A control block controls the communication block to acquire allocation information representing allocation of a function of the electronic musical instrument to a second control equipped in the electronic musical instrument. A setting block allocates the function of the electronic musical instrument to the first control according to the acquired allocation information, thereby enabling the remote control of the function of the electronic musical instrument by means of the first control through the public communication network.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication

network. In the electronic musical instrument, a coupling block is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which can download music information from a database server through the public communication network. A memory block can receive and store the downloaded music information outputted from the coupling block. A main block can process the memorized music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a main block can process music information for generation of music tones. A memory block stores the processed music information. A coupling block is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which can be connected to a database server through the public communication network. A control block controls the memory block to pass the stored music information to the coupling block, and controls the coupling block to upload the passed music information to the database server by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network.

An inventive system comprises an electronic musical instrument that treats music information associated to music tones, a mobile wireless terminal set that can be

coupled to the electronic musical instrument and that can communicate with a public communication network, and a database server that stores music information and that can be accessed by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network. In the system, the electronic musical instrument comprises a coupling block that is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which can download the music information from the database server through the public communication network, a memory block that can receive and store the downloaded music information outputted from the coupling block, and a main block that can process the memorized music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive system comprises an electronic musical instrument that treats music information associated to music tones, a mobile wireless terminal set that can be coupled to the electronic musical instrument and that can communicate with a public communication network, and a database server that is connected to the public communication network for serving music information to the public communication network. In the system, the electronic musical instrument comprises a main block that can process music information for generation of music tones, a memory block that stores the processed music information, a coupling block that is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set, and a control block that

controls the memory block to pass the stored music information to the coupling block and that controls the coupling block to upload the passed music information to the database server by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a coupling block is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which can access to another electronic musical instrument storing music information through the public communication network. A control block controls the coupling block to enable the mobile wireless terminal set to download the music information from said another electronic musical instrument. A memory block stores the downloaded music information outputted from the coupling block. A main block can process the stored music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive electronic musical instrument is constructed to treat music information associated to music tones, and can be coupled to a mobile wireless terminal set communicable with a public communication network. In the electronic musical instrument, a main block can process music information for generation of

music tones. A memory block stores the processed music information. A coupling block is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which is in turn connected to another electronic musical instrument through the public communication network. A control block controls the memory block to pass the stored music information to the coupling block, and controls the coupling block to upload the passed music information to said another electronic musical instrument by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network.

An inventive system comprises a first electronic musical instrument that treats music information associated to music tones, a mobile wireless terminal set that can be coupled to the first electronic musical instrument and that can communicate with a public communication network, and a second electronic musical instrument that stores music information and that can be accessed by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network. In the inventive system, the first electronic musical instrument comprises a coupling block that is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set which can download the music information from the second electronic musical instrument through the public communication network, a memory block that can receive and store the downloaded music information outputted from the coupling block, and a main block that

can process the stored music information for generation of music tones.

An inventive system comprises a first electronic musical instrument that treats music information associated to music tones, a mobile wireless terminal set that can be coupled to the first electronic musical instrument and that can communicate with a public communication network, and a second electronic musical instrument that is connected to the public communication network. In the inventive system, the first electronic musical instrument comprises a main block that can process music information for generation of music tones, a memory block that stores the processed music information, a coupling block that is coupled to the mobile wireless terminal set, and a control block that controls the memory block to pass the stored music information to the coupling block and that controls the coupling block to transfer the passed music information to the second electronic musical instrument by the mobile wireless terminal set through the public communication network.

An inventive mobile wireless terminal set is connectable to an electronic musical instrument which outputs music information usable for generation of music tones. In the mobile wireless terminal set, a coupling block is coupled to the electronic musical instrument to

receive therefrom the music information. A memory block memorizes the music information received by the coupling block. A converting block converts the memorized music information into a format suitable for transfer by a wireless line. A communication block can communicate with a public communication network by a wireless line to transfer the converted music information to the public communication network.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects of the invention will be seen by reference to the description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating a communications network for describing the embodiments of an electronic musical instrument and a mobile wireless terminal set according to the invention;

FIGS. 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), and 2(d) are diagrams illustrating electronic musical instruments and portable telephone terminals that replace the combination of the electronic musical instrument and the mobile wireless terminal set shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating one example of the internal configuration of the combination of the electronic musical instrument and the mobile wireless terminal set shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a flowchart for describing an interface processing operation for transferring data from the electronic musical instrument to the mobile wireless terminal set shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a flowchart for describing an interface processing operation for transferring data from the mobile wireless terminal set to the electronic musical instrument shown in FIG. 1; and

FIGS. 6(a) and 6(b) are flowcharts for describing a remote control processing operation of an electronic musical instrument by use of a portable telephone.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This invention will be described in further detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Now, referring to FIG. 1, there is shown a diagram of communications network connection for describing a system of an electronic musical instrument and a mobile wireless terminal set according to the invention. In the figure, reference numeral 1 denotes an electronic musical instrument. Reference numeral 2 denotes a connection cable. Reference numeral 3 denotes a portable telephone terminal. Reference numeral 4 denotes a base station. Reference numeral 5 denotes a public communications network. Reference numeral 6 denotes a database server.

Reference numeral 7 denotes a destination electronic musical instrument. Reference numeral 8 denotes another portable telephone terminal for operating a remote electronic musical instrument.

A personal computer may be connected to a portable telephone terminal by a so-called data communications card. The electronic musical instrument 1 has a coupling block in the form of a card slot into which the data communications card is loaded. The loaded data communications card is detachably connected to the portable telephone terminal 3 by the connection cable 2. Instead of the data communications card, a dedicated adapter may be used. Alternatively, the electronic musical instrument 1 and the portable telephone terminal 3 may be interconnected simply by the cable 2.

In the example shown, the mobile communications terminal set 3 is composed of a portable telephone terminal of cellular type. Instead of a cellular phone, a PHS (Personal Handyphone System) may be used.

The portable telephone terminal 3 is wirelessly connected to the base station 4, which in turn is connected to the public communications network 5 such as a subscriber telephone network. The public communications network 5 is connected to the database server 6 and the destination electronic musical instrument 7 directly or indirectly. The destination

instrument 1. The destination electronic musical instrument 7 may be connected to a subscriber telephone network through a modem. If the database server 6 is connected to a general-purpose network such as the Internet, the portable telephone terminal 3 may access the database server 6 by executing normal dial-up connection for an internet service provider on the public communications network 5. Therefore, the public communications network 5 is not substantially restricted to the scope of a subscriber telephone network.

The electronic musical instrument 1 also originates a call through the portable telephone terminal 3 or is called to receive the music information such as music tone information, music control information, and music performance information from the destination electronic musical instrument 7 on the public telephone network 6 in the form of MIDI messages through the portable telephone terminal 3. On the basis of the received information, the electronic musical instrument 1 can set or change parameters of an internal main block including a music tone signal generating block to generate a music tone signal according to the music performance information, thereby sounding the generated music tone signal from a speaker for example.

The electronic musical instrument 1 makes the portable telephone terminal 3 originate a call by dialing

to connect to the database server 6, and to download the music information such as music tone information, music control information, and music performance information from the database 6. On the basis of the downloaded information, the electronic musical instrument 1 initialize or change parameters of the music tone signal generating block. Conversely, the electronic musical instrument 1 can upload the music information to the database server 6.

Thus, without using a dedicated communication device or a dedicated LAN, the electronic musical instrument 1 can transfer the music information such as music tone information, music control information, and music performance information with the destination electronic musical instrument 7 and the database server 6 through the portable telephone terminal 3 and the public communications network 5.

On the other hand, the other portable telephone terminal 8 is used to remotely control the electronic musical instrument by operating controls arranged on this telephone terminal. For this purpose, the portable telephone terminal 8 stores remote control information.

A capability or function to be executed by operating controls of the electronic musical instrument, for example, a timbre selecting capability, is executed as follows. Namely, if timbre selection is to be executed

by varying an operation amount of a certain control, this control is assigned to a particular control arranged on the portable telephone terminal 8, and the operating amount of the control on the electronic musical instrument is remotely controlled by the particular control on the portable telephone terminal 8.

In this case, the control arranged on the electronic musical instrument may output the operation amount in the form of a rotational amount. On the other hand, the particular control arranged on the portable telephone terminal may output a corresponding operation amount in the form of click times if the control is composed of a push-button for example.

The operating information generated by the controls arranged on the electronic musical instrument includes music performance information generated by performance controls such as a keyboard, music tone information and music control information generated by setting controls, and functional control information generated by such controls for controlling the functions of the entire electronic musical instrument as power on/off switches, mode selector switch, automatic performance start switch, and a volume control.

The database server 6 stores the remote control information for assigning or allocating the capabilities to be executed by the controls arranged on the electronic

musical instrument to the controls arranged on the portable telephone terminal 8. The portable telephone terminal 8 originates a call to connect to the database server 6 on the public communications network 5 through the base station 4. When connected, the portable telephone terminal 8 sends a predetermined command to the database server 6 to download therefrom the remote control information such as function allocation information in the form of switch exclusive data, one of MIDI messages, and store the downloaded information.

Next, the user originates a call through the dial operation of the portable telephone terminal 8 to connect to the destination electronic musical instrument 7 on the public communications network 5. Then, the user switches the portable telephone terminal 8 to the remote control mode and operates the equipped controls to remotely operate the destination electronic musical instrument 7.

In the above-mentioned example, the remote control information is downloaded from the database server 6. It will be apparent that the remote control information may be downloaded from the destination electronic musical instrument 7.

Thus, with the portable telephone terminal 8 used as a remote control commanding device, plural unspecified electronic musical instruments can be remotely operated via a public communications network. In addition,

because the portable telephone terminal 8 is a wireless terminal, the user can move substantially anywhere. Communication via the public communications network 5 does not necessarily mean that the user operates an electronic musical instrument located remotely. In some cases, the portable telephone terminal 8 and the destination electronic musical instrument 7 may exist on a common performance stage. It is apparent that the portable telephone terminal 8 can remotely control the other electronic musical instrument 1 by acquiring the remote control information such as the function allocation information specific to the electronic musical instrument 1.

FIGS. 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), and 2(d) illustrate electronic musical instruments and portable telephone terminals associated with other examples of the combination of the electronic musical instrument 1 and the portable telephone terminal 3 shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 2(a) illustrates an example in which an electronic musical instrument 11 and a portable telephone terminal 12 are detachably connected with each other by means of a pair of connectors provided respectively to the electronic musical instrument 11 and the portable telephone terminal. When the portable telephone terminal 12 is detached, the terminal 12 becomes a stand-alone portable telephone terminal.

FIG. 2(b) illustrates an example in which a card-type portable telephone terminal 14 is detachably inserted in a coupling block composed of a card slot of an electronic musical instrument 13. This portable telephone terminal 14 may not have a telephone communication capability and/or a dial operation capability. If no dial operation capability is provided, a dial operation is executed by use of corresponding controls arranged on the electronic musical instrument 13.

FIG. 2(c) illustrates an example in which a portable telephone terminal 16 is accommodated into a space portion of an electronic musical instrument 15.

FIG. 2(d) illustrates an example in which an electronic musical instrument capability implemented by a music instrument unit including a tone generating LSI is installed in the body of a portable telephone terminal 17. Because of a small body size and the small number of controls, the capability as an electronic musical instrument is restricted. To reduce this restriction as far as possible, additional controls for the electronic musical instrument may be arranged on a cover of the body.

Performance made by operating the controls of the portable telephone terminal 17 may be heard through a built-in speaker or a headphone. In addition, the music

performance information may be sent real-time to the destination electronic musical instrument 7 for example through the public communications network 5. Moreover, music information may be downloaded from the database server 6 for example, and the portable telephone terminal 17 may process the downloaded music information to carry out automatic performance by means of the installed music instrument unit. Further, as with the remote operating portable telephone terminal 8 shown in FIG. 1, the portable telephone terminal 17 can be utilized as a remote operating portable telephone terminal.

Referring to FIG. 3, there is shown a block diagram illustrating an exemplary internal configuration of the combination of the electronic musical instrument 1 and the portable telephone terminal 3 shown in FIG. 1.

In the figure, on the side of the portable telephone terminal 3, reference numeral 21 denotes a bus line, reference numeral 22 denotes a CPU (Central Processing Unit) serving as a control block, reference numeral 23 denotes various controls, reference numeral 24 denotes a display, reference numeral 25 denotes a RAM (Random Access Memory), reference numeral 26 denotes a ROM (Read Only Memory), reference numeral 27 denotes an interface, reference numeral 28 denotes a wireless communications block, reference numeral 29 denotes a transmitter,

reference numeral 39 denotes a receiver, and reference numeral 31 denotes an antenna.

On the side of the electronic musical instrument 1, reference numeral 32 denotes a bus line, reference numeral 33 denotes a CPU serving as a control block, reference numeral 34 denotes various controls, reference numeral 35 denotes a display, reference numeral 36 denotes an external storage device, reference numeral 37 denotes an interface, reference numeral 38 denotes a RAM, reference numeral 39 denotes a ROM, reference numeral 40 denotes a MIDI interface, reference numeral 41 denotes a tone generator LSI, reference numeral 42 denotes a DA converter, reference numeral 43 denotes a sound system, and reference numeral 44 denotes a speaker.

The detailed configuration of the electronic musical instrument 1 depends on whether the electronic musical instrument is a keyboard electronic musical instrument, a tone generator, a sequencer, an automatic rhythm device, or an automatic accompaniment device. If the tone generator LSI 41 is provided as a main block of the electronic musical instrument, music tone signals can be generated in response to a manual performance operation real-time. It should be noted that the electronic musical instrument may also be an effector for manipulating inputted tones or a mixer for synthesizing plural tones and outputting a synthesized tone. In this

case also, the electronic musical instrument may incorporate the capability of monitoring manipulated or synthesized tones.

The above-mentioned system configuration is characterized by that the electronic musical instrument 1 and the mobile telephone terminal 3 exchanges and transfers data through the interface 27, the cable 2, and the interface 37. The following describes an operation of the electronic musical instrument 1 and the mobile telephone terminal 3 with reference to FIG. 3.

First, the operation of the electronic musical instrument as a stand-alone device will be described. The CPU 33 controls the electronic musical instrument 1 in its entirety and controls the interface with the portable telephone terminal 3. The RAM 38 is used as a work area and a memory block for storing various programs and information. The ROM 39 stores various programs such as performance processing programs and various kinds of control information.

The MIDI interface 40 interfaces the transfer of MIDI events with external MIDI devices. The external storage device 36 is a drive for accessing recording media such as CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read Only Memory), HD (Hard Disc), and FD (Floppy Disc).

The tone generator 41 is composed of a waveform memory type that generates music tone signals by reading

information) and music control information (for example, vibrato control information, effect information, and so on) and, at the same time, issues a command for starting sounding. In response, the tone generator 41, by use of the assigned sounding channel and by use of the tone waveform data read from one of the memories according to the waveform select information, generates a music tone signal corresponding to the above-mentioned music tone information.

The following describes an operation of the mobile telephone terminal 3 when it is used in a stand-alone manner. The CPU 22 controls the mobile telephone terminal 3 in its entirety and controls the interface with the electronic musical instrument 1. A control program is stored in the ROM 26 and operates by providing a work area and a buffer area in the RAM 25. The wireless communications block 28 executes a call setting procedure in a wireless manner under the control of the CPU 22. When the connecting operation has been completed, the CPU 22 digitizes a voice signal supplied from the transmitter 29, modulates the digital voice signal, and outputs the modulated voice signal from the antenna 31. At the same time, the CPU 22 demodulates a signal received at the antenna 31 into an analog signal and outputs the resultant analog voice from the receiver 30.

The electronic musical instrument 1 and the portable telephone terminal 3 transfer data via the interface 37 and the interface 27 with each other. The RAM 38 and the RAM 25 provide buffers or memory blocks for the data transfer. As described with reference to FIG. 1, a data communications card may be used as the interface. In this case, the electronic musical instrument 1 and the portable telephone terminal 3 directly provide the interface for the data communications card; substantially, however, the data communications card provides the interface for the portable telephone terminal 3 or the electronic musical instrument 1 with which the data communications card executes communication.

This interface processing will be described with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5. FIG. 4 is a flowchart for describing an operation for transferring data from the electronic musical instrument 1 to the portable telephone terminal 3 in the interface processing. First, in step S51, on the side of the electronic musical instrument 1, music information such as music tone information, music control information, and music performance information is converted into an interface format such as a MIDI message. In step S52, the converted data are stored in an interface transmission buffer and the processing is shifted to the side of the mobile telephone terminal 3

through the interface. In step S53, the converted data are stored in an interface reception buffer. In step S54, the data are converted into a communications format suitable for wireless communication. In step S55, the data in the wireless communications format are transmitted to a destination by use of a predetermined communications control protocol in a wireless manner.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart for describing an operation for transferring data from the portable telephone terminal 3 to the electronic musical instrument 1 in the interface processing. In step S61, on the side of the portable telephone terminal 3, data are received from the destination electronic musical instrument 7 or the database server 6. In step S62, the received data are converted into an interface format such as a MIDI message. In step S63, the converted data are stored in the interface transmission buffer and the processing is shifted to the electronic musical instrument 1. In step S64, the converted data are stored in the interface reception buffer. In step S65, the converted data are further converted into a format of music information. In step S66, a capability corresponding to the music tone information or the music control information is executed.

It should be noted that, in the above-mentioned interface processing, the portable telephone terminal 3 may be connected to the destination by dial operation

beforehand. The portable telephone terminal 3 may also be connected every time data transfer is required. The data communication through a mobile telephone terminal is generally executed by line exchange but it is sometimes executed by packet exchange over a packet network.

When the connection is made to the public communications network 5 in the above-mentioned configuration, the database server 6 can be used as an external storage device of the electronic musical instrument 1. If the portable telephone terminal 3 has a broadcast communications capability, the music performance information can be transmitted concurrently to a plurality of destination electronic musical instruments.

In transmitting MIDI messages from the electronic musical instrument 1, the music tone information and music performance information associated with timbre and waveform can be transferred as MIDI messages to the destination electronic musical instrument 7 or the database server 6 in a bulk transfer mode. As for the music performance information, MIDI message can be transferred to the destination electronic musical instrument 7 in a streaming reproduction mode. Conversely, the same holds when transmitting MIDI messages from the electronic musical instrument 1. It should be noted that, when transferring music tone

information not specified in the MIDI standard, the information can be transferred in the same manner by defining a predetermined format.

The transfer control program may be downloaded from the database server 6 or installed into the hard disc from a CD-ROM or like recording media.

The combinations of the electronic musical instrument and the portable telephone terminal shown in FIGS. 2(a) through 2(c) and the portable telephone terminal 17 shown in FIG. 2(d) may have configurations generally the same as that of the electronic musical instrument 1 and the portable telephone terminal 3 shown in FIG. 1. In the electronic musical instrument incorporating the mobile telephone terminal 16 shown in FIG. 2(c) or the mobile telephone terminal 17 incorporating the electronic musical instrument shown in FIG. 2(d), the electronic musical instrument unit and the mobile telephone terminal unit may be operated in an integrated manner by use of a common CPU, a common RAM, and a common ROM.

Otherwise, the section of the electronic musical instrument 1 and the section of the mobile telephone terminal 3 may be configured separately as shown in FIG. 3, and the data transfer, mutual operations, and synchronization operation may be controlled through the interface. This configuration allows the integrated

operations of the existing LSI and control program of electronic musical instruments and the existing LSI and control program of portable telephone terminals without change or with minor changes. In this case, the interfaces 27 and 37 and the connection cable 2 need not be the same as those of the data communications card. Therefore, a new interface may be designed or these interfaces may be integrated into one interface.

The following describes the remote control processing by the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation shown in FIG. 1. The internal block configuration of the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation may be the same as the block configuration shown in FIG. 3 except that the interface 27 is removed from the configuration of the portable telephone terminal 3. In addition to the telephone mode, the portable telephone terminal is provided with the setting mode for downloading remote control information into the RAM 25 of the portable telephone terminal 3 and the remote control mode. These modes are switched by the user of the portable telephone terminal.

FIGS. 6(a) and 6(b) are flowcharts for describing the remote operation processing to be executed by the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote control of an electronic musical instrument. FIG. 6(a) is a flowchart for describing the setting mode, and FIG. 6(b) is a

flowchart for describing the operation mode. In step S71 of FIG. 6(a), connection is made to the database server 6 (FIG. 1) on a public communications network by a dial operation. In step S72, the model of an electronic musical instrument to be remotely operated is selected. In step S73, a set of switch commands for the selected model is downloaded. For this switch command, an exclusive message, one of the MIDI messages, may be used.

In step S73, the user operates the controls and the display arranged on the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation to assign or allocate each switch command to each control on the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation. When the assignment has been completed, the user stores each switch command for each control on the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation into the RAM or the ROM of a flash memory type as remote control information. The switch command sets for plural electronic musical instrument models may be downloaded and stored as the remote control information for the plural models. Alternatively, switch commands for plural models may be assigned commonly to one switch.

In step S81 of FIG. 6(b), the user selects a model to be remotely operated. In step S82, the user selects the remote control mode. In step S83, the switch command corresponding to the operated control is obtained from

the RAM or the ROM. In step S84, the switch command and the operation amount are converted into a communications format to provide a remote control signal. In step S85, the user executes a dial operation to connect to the destination electronic musical instrument 7 (FIG. 1). In step S86, the remote control signal is transmitted to the destination electronic musical instrument 7. It should be noted that, before step S81, the user may execute the dial operation to connect to the destination electronic musical instrument 7.

As described, the data communication based on mobile telephone terminals is normally executed by line exchange, but it may be executed by packet exchange in which packets are transmitted upon data transfer request. Packet exchange is preferred for an operation that does not require real-time processing.

As described above, the switch exclusive data of various electronic musical instrument controls are stored beforehand on the database server on the public communications network as exclusive messages. The stored exclusive messages are downloaded according to the model of the electronic musical instrument to be operated. The user allocates these switch exclusive data to the controls on the portable telephone terminal 8 by checking the data and controls on the display. Every time the user operates the associated controls, the user can

output the corresponding switch exclusive data to the destination electronic musical instrument 7, thereby using the portable telephone terminal as a device for remotely controlling an electronic musical instrument.

The switch command transmitted from the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation is received by the destination electronic musical instrument 7. The received switch command is then analyzed to execute the corresponding operation. This allows the user to remotely turn on/off the electronic musical instrument, to start or stop performance, to edit timbres and so on. Because the switch commands execute these control operations through a portable telephone terminal via a public communications network, plural unspecified electronic musical instruments can be controlled remotely.

As with the type shown in FIG. 2(d), an electronic musical instrument capability may be added to the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation. However, for remote control alone, the hardware configuration remains the same as that of ordinary mobile telephone terminals, only requiring an increase in the storage sizes of the RAM or the ROM and a change in CPU programs.

With the portable telephone terminal 3 or the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation, only

the wireless communications connection capability is used. Therefore, these telephone terminals may only be a mobile wireless terminal, which can be connected to a public communications network directly or indirectly. Namely, these telephone terminals are not limited to portable telephone terminals.

If each individual mobile wireless communications terminal is capable of individually communicating with a destination electronic musical instrument or a database server one-to-one basis by a leased line without using an exchange network, this capability may be used for remote operation.

In the above-mentioned examples, the portable telephone terminal 8 for remote operation remotely controls electronic musical instruments. If a data format such as the MIDI message switch exclusive data can be defined, the portable telephone terminal 8 may remotely control not only electronic musical instruments but also any other devices.

As described and according to the invention, electronic musical instruments can be easily connected to a public communications network, so that plural electronic musical instruments and database servers can be networked by use of a public communications network. Consequently, the music information such as music tone information, music control information, and music

performance information can be effectively shared among electronic musical instruments.

In addition, by use of a public communications network, various electronic musical instruments connected to a public communications network can be remotely controlled and the remote control information can be downloaded by mobile wireless terminals such as portable telephone terminals including PHS terminals.

While the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described using specific terms, such description is for illustrative purposes only, and it is to be understood that changes and variations may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.